

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 00092 170348Z

14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 EUR-25 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /120 W

----- 125865

R 170225Z JAN 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1253

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 092

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS - VIEWS OF MA YU-CHEN

1. LOCAL DPA CORRESPONDENT HANS BARGMANN ON JANUARY 16 REPORTED TO USLO OFFICER RECENT CONVERSATION WITH MA YU-CHEN, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL LIAISON OFFICE OF THE MFA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, CONCERNING INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINA. BARGMANN SAID HE DELIBERATELY TRIED TO PROVOKE MA BY ASKING IF A NEW CULTURAL REVOLUTION WAS BREWING. MA DENIED SUCH A POSSIBILITY BUT SAID IT WAS NECESSARY FOR LEADERSHIP TO TIE UP A FEW LOOSE ENDS LEFT OVER FROM THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. ASKED IF THIS INCLUDED THE SHUFFLING OF REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDERS, MA SAID THIS INDEED WAS PART OF WHAT HE REFERRED TO AND ADDED "I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT NONE OF THE COMMANDERS WILL OCCUPY EITHER OF THE TOP TWO POLITICAL POSTS IN THEIR PROVINCES."

2. DURING ENSUING CONVERSATION WITH BARGMANN, USLO OFFICER EXPRESSED HIGH REGARD FOR MA'S PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, AND BARGMANN REPLIED "OF COURSE YOU KNOW THAT MA IS CHOU EN-LAI'S NEPHEW." HE INSISTED THAT HE WAS CERTAIN OF HIS INFORMATION DESPITE OBVIOUS SCEPTICISM ON PART OF USLO OFFICER. BARGMANN ALSO NOTED PHOTOGRAPH (WHICH

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PEKING 00092 170348Z

WE HAVE NOT SEEN) OF CHOU, STANDING ON TARMAC IN SHANGHAI AS

PRESIDENT NIXON'S PLANE TOOK OFF IN FEBRUARY 1972, EMBRACING
MA WHILE OTHER OFFICIALS AND PRESS CORPS LOOKED ON.

3. COMMENT: BARGMANN'S REPUTATION AS AN INSIDE DOPESTER IS WELL
KNOWN, AND HIS INFORMATION SHOULD BE TREATED WITH RESERVE.
NEVERTHELESS, IT WAS HE WHO FIRST PASSED ON FROM THE RUSSIANS
THE NEWS OF TENG HSIAO-PING'S PROMOTION TO POLITBURO
STATUS, AND ANOTHER WITNESS TO CHOU'S GESTURE IN SHANGHAI HAS
CONFIRMED BARGMANN'S STORY. IN ANY EVENT, MA YU-CHEN IS A YOUNG
MAN TO WATCH.
BRUCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, MILITARY PERSONNEL, SOCIAL CHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PEKING00092
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740135/aaaabgpm.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <24 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS - VIEWS OF MA YU-CHEN
TAGS: PINT, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005